

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6 and 24 have been amended to overcome the objections thereto. Claims 1-31 are pending and under consideration. Claims 23 and 24 are objected to.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully traversed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites a shattering member to break the used toner. The Examiner relies upon the dispersing member 12 of Okada as corresponding to this feature. However, the dispersing member 12 disperses the toner, as opposed to breaking the toner. The attached excerpt from *dictionary.com* indicates that "disperse" generally means to scatter, separate, disseminate or distribute widely. Thus, dispersal does not necessarily imply breaking. As shown in FIG. 1 of the reference, the dispersing member 12 has a substantially horizontal top surface, to thereby maximize the distribution of the toner. It is acknowledged that one definition of "disperse" is "to break up and vanish." However, this definition does not apply to the dispersing member 12, since the toner does not vanish. Thus, it is the remaining definitions not involving breaking and vanishing but instead relating to the scattering or separation which apply to Okada.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and recites that the shattering member comprises a first slant and a second slant each respectively at an obtuse angle to a dropping direction. In contrast, the dispersing member 12 comprises left and right portions at the same slant. Okada, FIG. 1.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and recites a first blade parallel with the dropping direction of the used toner. However, neither the left or right portions of the dispersing member 12 are parallel to the dropping direction. Okada, FIG. 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The remaining references do not overcome these deficiencies in Okada and are not relied upon to do so.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.


Serial No. 10/830,084

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 3-1-06

By: 
Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

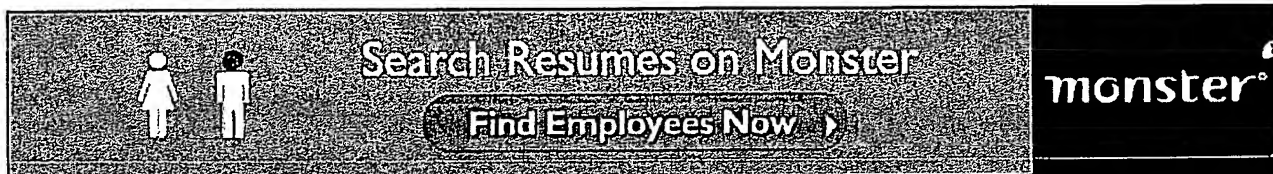
1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
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Facsimile: (202) 434-1501



disperse

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5 entries found for *disperse*.

dis·perse **Pronunciation Key** (dĭ-spûrs')

v. **dis·persed**, **dis·pers·ing**, **dis·pers·es**

v. *tr.*

- a. To drive off or scatter in different directions: *The police dispersed the crowd.*
- b. To strew or distribute widely: *The airplane dispersed the leaflets over the city.*
2. To cause to vanish or disappear. See Synonyms at [scatter](#).
3. To disseminate (knowledge, for example).
4. To separate (light) into spectral rays.
5. To distribute (particles) evenly throughout a medium.

v. *intr.*

1. To separate and move in different directions; scatter: *The crowd dispersed once the concert ended.*
2. To break up and vanish; dissipate: *The storm clouds had dispersed by noon.*

[Middle English *dispersen*, from Old French *disperser*, from Latin *dispergere*, *dispers-*, *to disperse* : *dis-*, *apart*; see *dis-* + *spargere*, *to scatter*.]

dis·pers'ed·ly (-spûr s'îd-lē) *adv.*

dis·pers'er *n.*

dis·pers'i·ble *adj.*

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Source: *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*

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dis·perse (dĭ-spûrs')

v. **dis·persed**, **dis·pers·ing**, **dis·pers·es**

1. To cause to separate and move in different directions; scatter.
2. To cause to vanish or disappear.

Source: *The American Heritage® Stedman's Medical Dictionary*

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Main Entry: **dis·perse**

Pronunciation: dis- 'p&rs

Function: *verb*

Inflected Forms: **dis·persed**; **dis·pers·ing**

transitive senses

: to spread or distribute from a fixed or constant source: as **a** :

to subject (as light) to dispersion **b** : to distribute (as fine particles) more or less evenly throughout a medium **disperse**

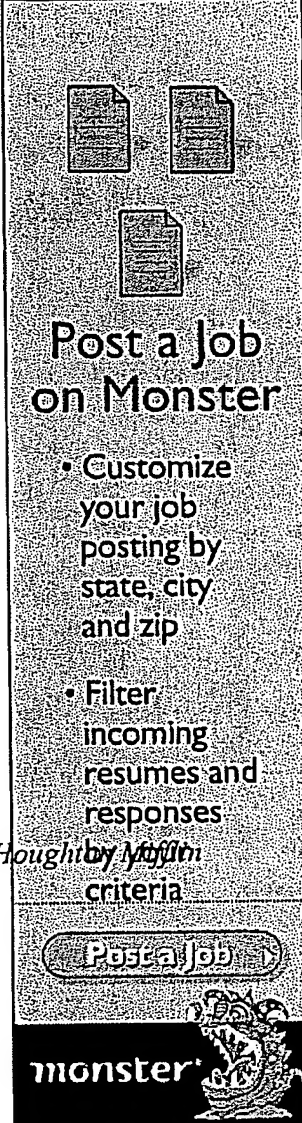
intransitive senses

: to become dispersed

Source: *Merriam-Webster's Medical Dictionary*, © 2002 Merriam-Webster, Inc.

disperse

v 1: distribute loosely; "He scattered gun powder under the wagon" [syn: scatter, sprinkle, dot, dust] 2: to cause to separate and go in different directions; "She waved her hand and scattered the crowds" [syn: dissipate, dispel, break up, scatter] 3: move away from each other; "The crowds dispersed"; "The children scattered in all directions when the teacher approached"; [syn: dissipate, scatter, spread out] 4: cause to separate; "break up kidney stones"; "disperse particles" [syn: break up, scatter] 5: cause to become widely



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known; "spread information"; "circulate a rumor"; "broadcast the news" [syn: circulate, circularize, circularise, distribute, disseminate, propagate, broadcast, spread, diffuse, pass around]

Source: *WordNet* ® 2.0, © 2003 Princeton University

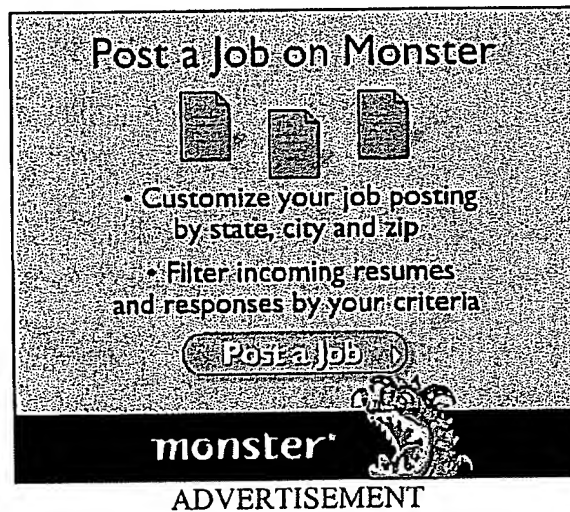
disperse

disperse: in CancerWEB's On-line Medical Dictionary

Source: *On-line Medical Dictionary*, © 1997-98 Academic Medical Publishing & CancerWEB

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